



ADVISORY OPINION # 27

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QUESTION: Is it within the role and scope of responsibilities of the registered nurse (RN) and licensed practical nurse (LPN) to perform sharps debridement of necrotic tissue as ordered by the physician or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN)?

The Board of Nursing for South Carolina recognizes that it is within the role and scope of the select registered nurses (RN) to perform sharps debridement of necrotic tissue as ordered by the physician or APRN. It is **NOT** within the role and scope of the LPN to perform sharps debridement.

The Board recognizes that this responsibility is considered an additional act for the registered nurse (RN) and recommends the following:

1. The agency nursing, medical, and administrative departments establish written policies, procedures, and/or standing orders that address:
 - a) Physician evaluation of patient condition indicative of need for debridement
 - b) Guidelines for dealing with potential complications
2. The agency documents nurse's successful completion of an organized course of study relative to wound assessment and debridement techniques. The course is to include didactic classroom instruction followed by a period of supervised clinical instruction including return demonstration and competency evaluation.

This statement is an advisory opinion of the South Carolina Board of Nursing as to what constitutes competent and safe nursing practice.